

Amendment dated February 3, 2006
First Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system having diamond-like carbon (DLC) contact surfaces, comprising:

a pair of relatively movable, facing DLC contact surfaces at least one of which is coated with a DLC film, and

a lubricant (L) interposed between said DLC contact surfaces, said lubricant (L) comprising a lubricant base oil (A) containing a ~~below-mentioned~~ base oil (X) as a main component, and a sulfur-containing molybdenum complex (B);

~~Said~~ wherein said base oil (X) consists at least one of a hydrocracked mineral oil, a wax-isomerized mineral oil, and a poly- α -olefin base oil, and has a kinematic viscosity of 2 to 20 mm²/s at 100 °C, a total aromatic content of not higher than 5 mass%, and a total sulfur content of not higher than 0.005 mass%.

Claim 2 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said lubricant (L) further comprising at least one of a friction modifier (C), a metal detergent (D), and a phosphorus-based anti-wear agent (E).

Claim 3 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein said friction modifier (C) comprises at least one of C1-C40 esters, amines, amides, alcohols, ethers, carboxylic acids, ketones, aldehydes, and carbonates.

Claim 4 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein said friction modifier (C) comprises at least one of an oxygen-containing organic compound and aliphatic amines.

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Claim 5 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said lubricant base oil (A) has a sulfur content of not higher than 0.005 mass%, or substantially no sulfur content.

Claim 6 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said DLC contact surfaces are contact surfaces provided in an internal combustion engine.

Claim 7 (Original): The system according to claim 1, further comprising, in addition to said DLC contact surfaces, a pair of relatively movable, facing non-DLC contact surfaces having no DLC film, wherein said lubricant (L) is interposed both between said DLC contact surfaces and between said non-DLC contact surfaces.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of lubricating a system of claim 1, comprising lubricating a pair of relatively movable, facing DLC contact surfaces at least one of which is coated with a DLC film, with a lubricant (L) interposed between said DLC contact surfaces, said lubricant (L) comprising a lubricant base oil (A) containing a ~~below-mentioned~~ base oil (X) as main component, and a sulfur-containing molybdenum complex (B);

Said wherein said base oil (X) consists at least one of a hydrocracked mineral oil, a wax-isomerized mineral oil, and a poly- α -olefin base oil, and has a kinematic viscosity of 2 to 20 mm²/s at 100 °C, a total aromatic content of not higher than 5 mass%, and a total sulfur content of not higher than 0.005 mass%.

Claim 9 (Original): A lubricant for lubricating a system having a pair of relatively movable, facing DLC contact surfaces at least one of which is coated with a DLC film, said lubricant comprising:

a lubricant base oil (A) comprising a base oil (X) as a main component, wherein said base oil (X) consists at least one of a hydrocracked mineral oil, a wax-isomerized mineral oil, and a poly- α -olefin base oil, and has a kinematic viscosity of 2 to 20 mm²/s at 100 °C, a total aromatic content of not higher than 5 mass%, and a total sulfur content of not higher than 0.005 mass%; and

a sulfur-containing molybdenum complex (B).

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Claim 10 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 9, further comprising at least one of a friction modifier (C), a metal detergent (D), and a phosphorus-based anti-wear agent (E).

Claim 11 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 10, wherein said friction modifier (C) comprises at least one of C1-C40 esters, amines, amides, alcohols, ethers, carboxylic acids, ketones, aldehydes, and carbonates.

Claim 12 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 10, wherein said friction modifier (C) comprises at least one of an oxygen-containing organic compound and aliphatic amines.

Claim 13 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 9, wherein a content of said sulfur-containing molybdenum complex (B) is 0.02 to 0.1 mass% of a total amount of the lubricant in terms of molybdenum element.

Claim 14 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 10, wherein said metal detergent (D) comprises a sulfur-free metal detergent as a main component.

Claim 15 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 14, wherein said sulfur-free metal detergent comprises at least one of a neutral alkaline earth metal salicylate and a basic or overbased metal detergent containing calcium borate.

Claim 16 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 10, wherein said phosphorus-based anti-wear agent (E) comprises zinc dithiophosphate.

Claim 17 (Original): The lubricant according to claim 10, wherein said phosphorus-based anti-wear agent (E) comprises a sulfur-free phosphorus compound.